/186 cont./

the hands of the dead." (In this connection I refer to my remarks concerning this author and the objectives of his investigation in the chapter, "Myths and Fairy Tales," pp. 302-303.)

Lajonquière (1) gives the following portrayal: "Among the

1. II, p. 313.

Meau there are some individuals, half priests and half sorcerers, without a cult or ordination, who, however, ascribe to themselves supernatural powers. They close their eyes and release their soul from the mortal body so that it may make contact with the spirits in the depths of the earth. As special clothing, the sorceress merely have a white veil which they put over their faces before the ceremony. Music and dancing play an important role in this, but it always ends with an elaborate feast."

According to the data of the various authors cited and my own observations, an error must be involved when Dhuraratsadorn (2)

2. Page 172.

writes that the Meau have no priests at all. At any rate, I could find a very clear separation of the activities of the male and female shamans from those of the other Meau, who, to be sure, also perform various magical procedures. Among them there is the hunting magic, which is practiced by successful hunters both among the Akha and the Meau without requiring the help or the presence of the shaman. For this magic the hunter must smear the front part of his crossbow with the blood of the slain animal. He then glues a few hairs or feathers, depending on whether a bird or other game is involved, to the blood and now believes that he will soon again be equally successful with the weapon. It is possible that such magical procedures which are feasible for every Meau have led to the view that this people has no individuals who can be regarded expressly as priests, that is, shamans. On the contrary, the activity of the shamans is very extensive.

/340 cont./

224 powder, they make themselves." Abadie (1) confirms this

1. Page 162.

observation. Savina (2), too, expresses himself about the

2. II, p. 230.

hunting of the Meau: "They principally hunt the wild pig, the bear, and the deer. The deer is hunted in the mountains which they burn off every year. It always comes to eat the young shoots under the ashes. The Meau also lure it with [231] [411] pieces of salt. All deer are fond of salt. They are hunted with dogs. Small game is shot with the crossbow."

In Thailand, in the habitation areas of the Meau, conditions are different insofar as burning the jungle for hunting purposes is impossible, since the damp, in part even succulent plants do not burn. In any case, high grass, which would nevertheless make burning on a large scale possible, does not grow under the trees.

224 411 As hunting weapons, the Meau use the crossbow (Ills. 79 and 93 and Figs. 316-320),[1] with which effective poisoned arrows are also shot. The flintlock gun (Ill. 78 and Figs. 306-[326] 308),[2] which they know how to manufacture themselves, is also important.

224 262 Everything that inhabits the jungle, as long as it has hair or feathers, is regarded as game by the Meau. Everything is used from the mouse to the elephant, from the small mammal to the wild peacock, with the exception of the large black squirrel, although there are, of course, considerable gradations in popularity. Elephant, rhinoceros, deer, muntjac, and wild pig are especially desired. Birds, on the [223] other hand, are less so, because they provide too little meat, as the informants said. Lizards, snakes, and worms, on the other hand, are not eaten.

1 [see cat 116, pp 576, 643, +530 - ANALYST]
2 [" " " , pp 576 + 526 - "]

/343 cont./

224 [177] Pitfalls are not set up by the Meau. To be sure, some Meau hunters are familiar with this hunting method from the Lao, but it is not used, as was explained to me, because of the fear that human beings might fall in. The Meau do know a method of catching tigers, however, which is in a way reminiscent of pitfalls. At a point where the customary path of the tiger leads across a brook, a tree trunk cut in the middle is laid across the watercourse. Under the breaking point thus prepared, pointed posts are put in the brook and screened, and the tiger, plunging down, is impaled on them. During our stay the Meau actually succeeded in capturing a big cat in this manner.

The catching of mammals in nets is unknown, but the Meau are very skillfull in setting self-firing traps with a crossbow built in (see the section, "Agriculture," in this chapter), as well as nooses, which, in long rows, always with one noose beside another, are set so as to be invisible in the grass (Figs. 254-256). In association with bait or decoy-whistles (Fig. 257), the hunters then succeed in catching the [223] representatives of the gallinaceous birds, which are especially numerous in Thailand, in the noose or in the snare that has been set (Ill. 80[1] and Fig. 258). Larger animals up to the size of a deer are caught by the Meau in plate-traps. These consist of a foot board, /344/ which, when stepped upon, pulls up a flexible branch to which the noose is attached and thereby drawn together.

The construction of such deer traps is shown in Fig. 259. When the game steps on the boards fastened on one side over a pit and screened with leaves, the small board e and the crossbar d fall down, which releases the string J and the liana L, and the branch M /Figs. 254-259 appear here/ /345/ snaps upward. Through this the noose H, which was also connected with the liana and was placed over the foot boards, draws together around the leg of the animal. The snaring line is tied fast to a peg driven into the ground so that the captured game cannot escape. In setting the trap, the branch is bent down so low by means of block and tackle that the small board

[1] [See cat 116, p595- ANALYST]

39: Bernatzik--466 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

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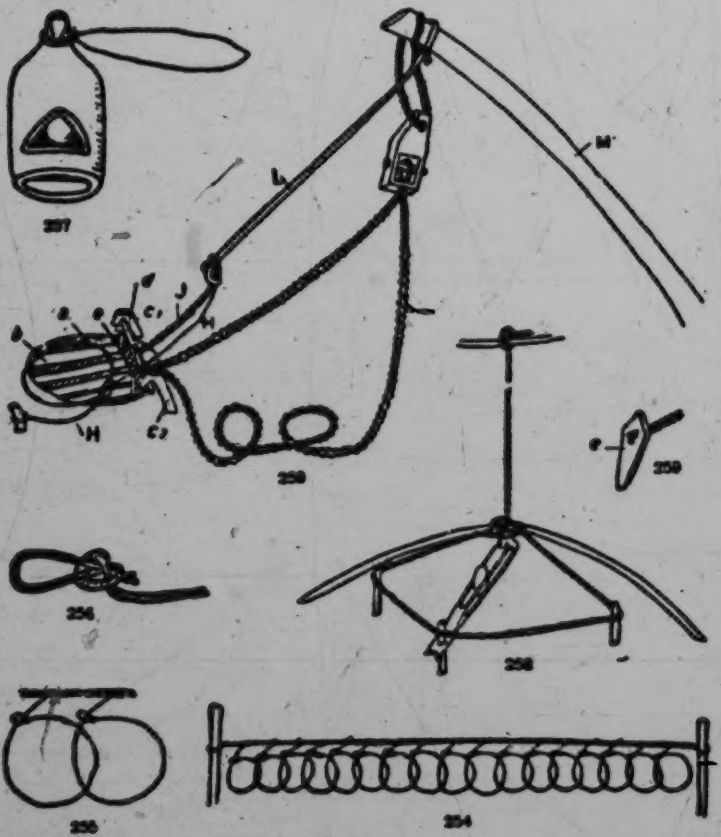
Figs. 254-259. Snaring Equipment of the Meau.

Figs. 254-256. Snaring nooses in a row arrangement: Fig. 254, complete picture, 1/20 nat. size; Fig. 255, arrangement of the nooses; Fig. 256, noose



[534]

knot. Fig. 257. Decoy whistle for bird-hunting, 1/2 nat. size. Fig. 258. Bird trap, 1/5 nat. size. Fig. 259. Deer trap, 1/15 nat. size.

39: Bernatzik--595 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

/Opposite p. 442/

302
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Ill. 80. Meau hunter setting a snare to catch wild birds.

39: Bernatzik--725 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

/VII cont./

534 Ills. 75-77. Musical instruments.

Ill. 75. The mouth organ of the Meau, which differs in size and construction from the instruments of the other mountain peoples of Farther India (cf. Ill. 25). The instrument is carefully carved out of wood and mounted with silver rings. The inserted flutes are made of bamboo. As among the Akha, the instrument is played exclusively by men and usually simultaneously with dancing. The mouth organ is of greatest significance for the Meau as a sacral musical instrument.

[562] [535]

Ill. 76. Simple rod-flute of the Meau, made of bamboo, with one blow hole and six finger holes on the upper side and one finger hole on the under side. The latter is kept shut during the playing.

Ill. 77. Jew's-harp. The instrument consists of a brass or bronze plate, the center of which is cut out to form a tongue. The jew's-harp is placed against the teeth and made to vibrate with the thumb of the right hand; the oral cavity forms the sounding board. A change in the size of the otal cavity produces a change of pitch.

Ills. 78-80 and 91-96. Means of subsistence.

411 Ill. 78. Flintlock gun, the chief weapon in war and for hunting, which the Meau make themselves, as well as the black gunpowder. The gun does not have a butt like the European gun, but merely a pistol stock. Lead or iron bullets are used. Although accuracy and penetrating power are slight, measured by European weapons, the Meau kill even big game with their guns.

Ill. 79. Crossbow. Next to the flintlock guns, the crossbow is the most important weapon of the Meau. Nevertheless, it is of less importance than among the Akha, who have almost no guns, and is usually used only for hunting birds and small game. With poisoned arrows, however, even large game and pachyderms are killed.

[223] [224]

223 Ill. 80. As passionate hunters, the Meau are masters at setting traps. The illustration shows a hunter who is setting a snare to catch wild birds. As soon as the bird touches the trigger stick, the noose jerks upward and the booty is caught in it.